

Duquesne University

Duquesne Scholarship Collection

Miscellaneous Pamphlets

Law Library

Summer 6-2-2025

KGLL Annual Report 2024-2025

Law Library

lawlibrary@duq.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dsc.duq.edu/law-misc-pamphlets>

Recommended Citation

Library, L. (2025). KGLL Annual Report 2024-2025. Retrieved from <https://dsc.duq.edu/law-misc-pamphlets/5>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Library at Duquesne Scholarship Collection. It has been accepted for inclusion in Miscellaneous Pamphlets by an authorized administrator of Duquesne Scholarship Collection. For more information, please contact beharyr@duq.edu.



Ken Gormley Law Library

Annual Report 2024-2025

During the 2024–2025 academic year, the Ken Gormley Law Library of the Duquesne Kline School of Law continued its commitment to strategic thinking, ingenuity, and collaboration. Key priorities included expanding outreach, enhancing services and resources, while supporting the mission of the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University.

Highlights

- **Renaming of the Library:** Redesign of the front entrance commenced on May 15, 2025.
- **Taylor/Ledewitz Collection:** For the first time, the library has been involved in the scholarship enterprise at the creation level. KGLL memorialized in the MARC records the usage of each book used by two giants of Duquesne Law School: <https://dsc.duq.edu/law-dcli-symposia/>.
- **Third Annual Duq Law Book Club:** First entirely student-run Book Club.
- **AI Initiatives:** New product demos and AI best practices in legal research.
- **Diversified Study Aids Offerings:** Development of the print collection.
- **Third Summer Bar Studies Collaboration.**
- **Facilitated Scholarship Communication:** 154,941 downloads from Digital Commons.
- **Continued Teaching Opportunities:** Each public services librarian taught legal research for credit. Dana taught Climate Change Law, Research and Writing; Chuck & Katie co-taught Research for Law Practice; Katie also co-taught (with Dr. Mark Dunn) Law Office Technology.
- **Values of Justice and Belonging:** Permeated the library's collection and services, including initiatives such as the third Earth Day commemoration at the library on April 22, 2025.
- **Tenth Library Talk Series:** *Engaged Scholarship* with Dr. Patricia De Marco.



Thomas R. Kline School of Law of
Duquesne University
Ken Gormley Law Library
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15282
412.396.5017
lawlibrary@duq.edu
<https://www.duq.edu/lawlibrary>

COLLECTION

- The law library received and cataloged the Taylor/Ledewitz Book Collection.
- The law library has implemented “the just in time with a twist of GenAI” collection development policy.
- The law librarians incorporated their expertise and anticipated sustainable avenues to ensure the faculty have access to legal information.
- For the third consecutive year, the law library has been able to fulfill all faculty requests.

While these are a few of the many insights learned, let me return to the wide scope of the Ledewitz/Taylor book collection before you. In teaching our classes we read many books to exegete the one or several books used in each of our classes. It was a case of “e pluribus unum.” So you will see how thoroughly our books are frequently underlined, even with marginalia of abbreviated insights. Both of us are very happy to make this well-plowed intellectual soil available to future law students who enter on a journey such as ours has delightfully been. Bruce has been a real Mensch and my abiding friend whom I admire very deeply.

Prof. Robert Taylor, November 13, 2024



A selection of new titles added to the collection this year.

Proudly providing 483 SEATS and 18 STUDY ROOMS!

SERVICES

- In 2024-2025, the law librarians continued to provide reference services in-person, by telephone, and online through lawlibrary@duq.edu.
- **Beginning September 2024**, all librarians participated in in-person reference. For the first time in the history of the law library, the reference desk has been staffed by a professional librarian for nine hours daily, from 9 A.M. to 6 P.M., totaling 45 hours weekly!
- In collaboration with the Legal Research and Writing Program, Director Dana Neacsu offered *Research in a Flash* during the Fall semester.
- For its **third consecutive year**, the law library incorporated empirical data from its semi-annual faculty and student surveys (fall and spring) to expand and evaluate its services. The law
- library continued to meet with the **Student Bar Association (SBA)** each semester to gather student feedback and suggestions.



Prof. Joe Mistick visiting the library on a Thursday morning at 9 am.

Survey data shows that 100% of faculty respondents are very satisfied with the library's support of research and teaching and 100% of student respondents are very satisfied or mostly satisfied with the services.

Spring 2025 Faculty and Student Surveys

The librarians themselves are extremely helpful. Every time I've had a problem, they solved it in minutes ...

Spring 2025 Student Survey comment

The Law Library Is a Pillar of Intellectual Life

- The library continued to serve as a vibrant hub for student activity.
- All Fall (*Heat: A History*) and Spring (*What the Body Remembers*) book club meetings took place in the *McGinnis Multicultural Room*.

The Law Library Is a Pillar of Sustained Excellence in Teaching and Learning

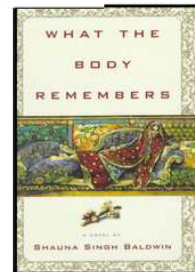
- The law library remains at the forefront of scholarly dissemination through its **Digital Commons**, <https://dsc.duq.edu/law/>, accessible to both faculty and students. This year, we proudly reached a milestone of **nearly 500,000 downloads worldwide since 2021**.
- **On November 13, 2024**, the law library celebrated the completion of cataloging *The Judaica Collection* from *The Taylor/Ledewitz book gift*. Invited guests had the opportunity to hear Professor Robert Taylor speak at the commemoration event, which was recorded and made available on Digital Commons at <https://dsc.duq.edu/law-dcli-symposia/>, and publicized on the Law School's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1205545398245479>.
- The law library is also at the forefront of scholarly publication. **In collaboration with the Associate Deans for Faculty Scholarship**, and under the leadership of **Katie Lynch**, the library is streamlining the dissemination of faculty scholarship through SEDONA.
- Five additional student papers from Dr. Neacsu's 2024 experiential course, *Climate Change: Law, Research, and Writing*, were published in collaboration with JOULE on their website, <https://sites.law.duq.edu/joule/climate-change-law-x-joule-collaboration/>.

The Law Library is a Pillar of Wellness Services

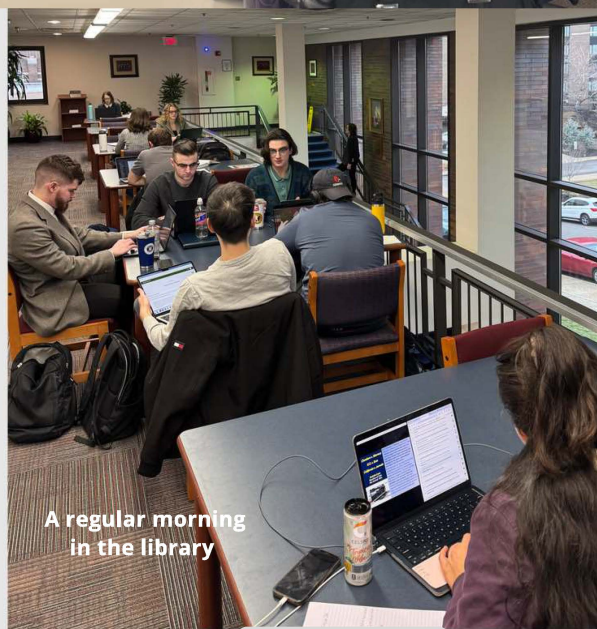
- The wellness program activities continued, including organized game days and the ongoing casual art-making space.
- The book exchange, added to the **Procrastination Table**, successfully continued this year.

The Law Library Is a Center of Equity and Inclusion

The law library staff attended the University's MLK Jr. Day Walk and Luncheon event, as well as the University's Juneteenth Celebration, both organized by Crystal McCormick Ware, Senior Advisor to the President.



February 19, 2025
Book Club Meeting



A regular morning
in the library



April 22, 2025
55th Earth Day Celebration



April 22, 2025
10th DKLL Legal Talk Series - Patricia DeMarco
<https://dsc.duq.edu/law-dcli-speakers/10/>

STAFF UPDATES

- **Kathleen (Katie) Lynch**, J.D., M.L.I.S., Faculty Research and Outreach Services Librarian led the process of managing the faculty scholarship output through SEDONA, Legal Research Paper Series on SSRN and the Duquesne Digital Commons. Katie continued to co-teach the Law Office Technology course during the fall and spring semesters with Dr. Mark Dunn. Katie also co-taught the Research for Law Practice course during the fall and spring semesters with adjunct professor, **Chuck Sprowls**.
- The Head of Information Access and Student Services, **Chuck Sprowls**, M.L.I.S. continued to publish the E-Library News, a bimonthly update for law students regarding library programs, services, and announcements. **Chuck Sprowls** and **Katie Lynch** chaired the search committee for the Weekend Librarian. **Chuck** continued to train and supervise the library student assistants who provide essential operational support while developing exemplary professional skills.
- The Assistant Director for Resource Development and Metadata Services, **Amy Lovell**, M.L.S., engaged in a massive cataloging project. In six months, **Amy** cataloged over 800 interdisciplinary print books for the Taylor/Ledewitz collection. **Dana** and **Amy** created individualized annotated bookplates, emphasizing the uniqueness of each book based on weekly meetings with Bruce Ledewitz that lasted most of the previous year! **Amy** also continued to facilitate the semi-annual surveys for students and faculty in Qualtrics..
- **Dana Neacsu**, LL.B., D.E.A., LL.M., M.L.S., Ph.D., Director and Associate Professor of Legal Skills, continued her *Climate Change* course. In July 2024, Dana continued her duties as the Director of the National Conference on Legal Information and Teaching (CoLIST aka Boulder Conference) which took place in Chicago, IL, <https://dsc.duq.edu/boulderconference/2024/>.
- After more than 12 months without a Weekend Librarian, **Abby Hall**, M.S.L.S., started as the new **Weekend Librarian** on March 7, 2025. She immediately helped expand library services, proving to be a great addition to the library faculty. **Chuck Sprowls** and **Katie Lynch** headed the search committee for the new Weekend Librarian position.
- **Continued professional development** remains a priority for law librarians and staff, who participated in a variety of professional development opportunities and webinars on a wide range of topics, including GenAI, marketing, government publications, collection development and licensing, and technology engagement.

LOOKING AHEAD

The law library looks forward to continuing and expanding its role in:

- Faculty scholarship production and dissemination,
- Student learning and wellness activities, and
- Fostering an inclusive environment that promotes accessibility and belonging.

Exciting changes are ahead this summer: The entrance to the newly renamed Ken Gormley Law Library will be renovated. While the project may pose some challenges, our dedicated librarians will manage the disruption with professionalism, ensuring continued support and service throughout. Look for us in the LRW Center, on the 1st floor near the staff elevator!

Noteworthy Accomplishments

Dana Neacsu continued on IFLA's Law Library Committee representing U.S. law school libraries.

Katie Lynch continued her tenure as Treasurer of Western Pennsylvania Law Libraries Association WPLLA)

Chuck Sprowls continued to serve on the Duquesne University Senate. He is the longest serving senator.

Dana Neacsu published three articles this year:

- **Dana Neacsu & Paul D. Callister**, *The Persistent Treatise*, 116 *Law Library Journal* 257 (2024).
- **Neacsu, D.** (2025). *Law Library Collection Development in the Time of GenAI*. *AALL Spectrum*, V.29 (No.4).
- **Neacsu, D.** *The Ersatz of the Plain-Meaning Rule of Statutory Construction in Sackett v. EPA (II)* 62 *DuqLRev* 275 (2024).

Amy Lovell completed two courses related to GenAI: Google AI Essentials and Google Prompting Essentials (Coursera/ Google)

Katie Lynch continued her tenure on the AALL's Academic Law Libraries-SIS Student Services Committee

The library staff at the Gormley Law Library has been critical to my success as a teacher and scholar at Duquesne. I often ask our library colleagues to pull materials for me that I cannot find myself (often at the last minute!), and I am astounded each time by the speed and diligence with which our library colleagues are able to satisfy my requests. I constantly use the library's resources for my teaching, whether it is to provide materials in class to students or to teach students how to do their own research for their various projects and papers. Most of our students do not come to Duquesne with developed research skills, and our librarians play a critical role in helping our students develop these skills. I also use the library to prepare for various presentations. I make requests of the library several times a week. Amy and Dana have helped me do literature reviews, find articles in social science journals, track down various hard-to-find sources, and even find sources in situations when I have a quote but don't know where it originated. I try to thank our colleagues in the library in everything I publish because their services are so essential to my success. I'm really very appreciative of the services I have received from the library.

Spring 2025 Faculty Survey comment